

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002685/25
to the Commission
Aldo Patriciello (Pfe)
(2 July 2025)**

Subject: Protecting travellers and developing tourism in Europe

Tourism is one of the European Union's key economic sectors, making significant contributions to GDP and employment in many Member States.

The increasing flow of tourists in Europe poses considerable challenges in terms of safety, health protection, environmental sustainability and the quality of services provided.

Recent health crises (such as the COVID-19 pandemic) and terrorist threats due to the geopolitical situation have highlighted the need to strengthen measures to protect travellers and prevent tourism-related risks.

Travellers often face different risks depending on their destination: the lack of effective EU coordination can limit the ability to provide a rapid and integrated response.

In the light of the above:

1. What steps will the Commission take to improve the protection and safety of travellers within the European Union, including through tools for risk prevention, information and assistance in the event of emergencies?
2. How will it step up cooperation between Member States to ensure there are coordinated responses in crisis situations involving tourists?

Submitted: 2.7.2025

**Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas on behalf of the European Commission
(8 September 2025)**

The Commission recognises the critical importance of ensuring protection and safety of travellers. The upcoming EU Strategy for Sustainable Tourism, to be released in Spring 2026, will address these issues, as one of our post-pandemic priorities for the tourism sector is to improve its resilience.

The Commission is working with Destination Management Organisations to help them to be prepared for crisis and have action plans in place.

In that respect the Commission, with the financial support of the European Parliament, finalised in 2024 a pilot project on crisis management in tourism: 50 destinations received technical assistance on crisis preparedness.

Protection and safety of travellers in the event of emergencies are responsibility of Member States. When a crisis overwhelms national capacities, affected Member States can request assistance through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism ⁽¹⁾, which supports national efforts to prepare for emergencies through knowledge exchange, capacity-building and financial assistance for national and cross-border initiatives.

Coordination of response is ensured via the Emergency Response Coordination Centre, the Commission's 24/7 single contact point.

The Preparedness Union Strategy ⁽²⁾ aims to promote public access to risk information, support the development of early warning systems, encourage the adoption of preparedness measures and foster a culture of prevention.

The Commission is working on a new EU online platform to provide citizens and travellers with tailored and accessible information on risks and practical steps to mitigate them.

In addition, the European Regional Development Fund, the Cohesion Fund and Interreg ⁽³⁾ can support projects for disaster prevention and preparedness.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02013D1313-20231218>.

⁽²⁾ <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/circabc-ewpp/d/d/workspace/SpacesStore/b81316ab-a513-49a1-b520-b6a6e0de6986/file.bin>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1058/2024-12-24/eng>.